

## ARMY TRAIN IS ENROUTE TO THE PACIFIC COAST

MOTOR TRANSPORT OUTFIT IS THREE MILES LONG—WILL CROSS THE STATE

Three Thousand Mile Trip is Scheduled to Be Completed Within Sixty Days.

An Army motor transport train, three miles long, left Washington a week ago last Monday on a trans-continental journey, the route of which will be the Lincoln Highway and the final destination San Francisco. The trip is scheduled to be made in sixty days, and the War Department order states that "it will serve as a test of the efficiency of the army's transport service," and that furthermore it will "demonstrate to the nation the inestimable value of a system of national highways."

The train will pass through Omaha, July 13th, according to the schedule arranged and will arrive at Grand Island, July 15th; North Platte, July 16th and Sidney, July 17th. Several Alliance people have signified their intention to go to one of these places upon the scheduled date to witness the sight.

"The plans for the adventure have been completed," says the official statement. "All equipment has been assembled and the personnel detail assigned. This transport is the heaviest in the history of the army. It is even heavier than any single unit of the huge transport service used to keep the armies of the Allies supplied along the French front. No motor transport train of any nation has ever attempted a continuous journey of 3,000 miles in sixty days with full war equipment. The motor trucks carry not only their own supplies to last the entire journey, but carry supply and repair units, as well as full complements of men and officers. The marching orders call for an average of 75 miles a day. This schedule necessitates a speed of 15 miles an hour all the way from Washington to the coast, no matter how unfavorable the weather or geographical conditions.

"The War Department, through the Chief of the Motor Transport Corps, Brig. Gen. Drake, has officially notified the War Camp Community Service of the departure of the transport train, and requested it to care for the men all the way from Washington to San Francisco, sending the itinerary of the line of march. The War Camp Community Service has been authorized to make official announcement of the event for the War Department, and has already dispatched special letters with instructions to all of its organizers and field workers along the line of march. Plans for the men's care and recreation during their brief evenings in each community have already been perfected.

"The decision to send three miles of army motor trucks across the country was reached several days ago in Washington after consultation between General Drake, in command of the transport service; Colonel Owen Seaman, and Lieut. Col. J. M. Ritchie, working in close collaboration with the Lincoln Highway Association.

**To Cross Continental Divide.**  
"The most picturesque features of the long journey will be the manner in which the long, snake-like train of motor vehicles will wind its heavy, bumping way over the Rocky Mountains. It will cross by way of the Continental Divide. The engineering staff of the army has carefully figured out the journey, so that no mechanical or engineering obstacles stand in the way of its success.

"The start was made on the morning of July 7 from Lafayette Square, in front of the White House. The van of the train immediately left the capital, headed for Pittsburgh. The course then followed will take the soldiers' trucks through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada. The transport trucks will finally drop down the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range to Sacramento, Cal., and then on to San Francisco.

"For many years the Lincoln Highway Association has endeavored to secure the backing of the government in its project to build a thoroughly sound ocean-to-ocean highway. The proposed journey of the three miles of motor transport is the first official assistance that it has received in its project. In many States good roads have made campaign slogans, and many Governors and Mayors have been made or unmade, according to their ideas on this public question. The War Department, in its official statement to the War Camp Community Service, called attention to the political importance of good roads throughout the country.

"It is planned to establish a good roads day in the various States on the days the transport convoy is passing through them. The schools will be closed as on a holiday, and the train will be welcomed along the route by various civic organizations.

"Because of the importance of good roads the cross-continent journey of the motor transport convoy will not only interest the nation as a spectacle of military efficiency and preparedness, but will appeal to every business interest. Good roads mean good business. From a military standpoint the necessity for good ocean-to-ocean highways is incalculable.

### To Be Met By Governors.

"The Governors' staffs of each State will greet the Motor Train and escort it from the eastern to the western boundary of the State, where in turn it will be met by the officials of the adjoining State. When the convoy reaches California, at the western terminus of the Lincoln Highway, arrangements have been made for Governor Hiram Johnson to preside over the elaborate welcoming ceremony. The military effect of the journey will be even greater than the civic lesson that it

will teach. It will demonstrate the practicability of getting a huge army across the continent in sixty days.

"It is also proposed to have the President of the United States dedicate a tablet in Lafayette Square marking not only the starting point of the cross-continent army junk but also serving as the original point of all the national highways in the country. The tablet will consist of an engraved map of the United States. All the national highways, now and later authorized, will be filled in in gold."

The principal cities through which the motor transport train will pass are Gettysburg, Pittsburgh, Canton, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Chicago, Cedar Rapids, Cheyenne, Salt Lake City, Carson, Sacramento, Stockton and Oakland.

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